

Villanova, Pennsylvania—Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) attended the 2007 Buddy Walk to benefit children with Down syndrome through the Trisomy 21 Program at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). — "When my daughter Alex was in a pediatric cancer ward, I saw first hand the strength of a child, and the strength of her will to live. I learned more during that time than I had ever during my 31 years of service in the US Navy, and it greatly shaped my commitment to ensuring that all children will receive the health care they deserve for the opportunity to live prosperous and successful lives." said Congressman Sestak. "I am especially proud of the work of CHOP and the organizers of the 2007 Buddy Walk, who are raising awareness about Down Syndrome (Trisomy21), a leading children's health issue."

The 2007 Buddy Walk was a family fun festival, with an optional two-mile walk, that drew several hundred people, and included remarks from the Congressman in addition to his participation during the annual raffle prize drawing. The family fun day also included an appearance by the Mummers, an exhibition of first responders, childrens games, sporting activities, food and music.

"As Senator Hubert Humphrey said, the moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped," said Congressman Sestak.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "DeepBlue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.